

SKBN Coordination Unit

Humanitarian Update

August 2021



The main route connecting South Kordofan with South Sudan (August 2021)

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

Food security continues to deteriorate in the Two Areas

Blue Nile (Southern Kurmuk County)

Replanting and weeding were the main activities on both nearby and far farms. Seedlings planted reportedly dried out in most areas following a dry spell in June and July after planting. The affected farmers carried out a replanting to cope up with rainfall pattern changes and this will affect the normal harvesting period (months) of crops especially the short-duration sorghum, maize, ground nuts, beans and cow peas, among others. The change in rainfall pattern following dry spell (June, July) is most likely to have a negative impact on the overall crop production for 2021-2022 season. Farmers reported harvesting of early maturing crops (sorghum and sesame in few areas) and vegetables such as pumpkins and local vegetable varieties during the month of August from near farms. However, local authorities reported an overall poor jibraka harvest, particularly of maize and short-duration sorghum. In July, **1,565** households received seeds from two local partners.

In August, **9,000** farmers received food and hoes from one of the partners. Despite food relief aid, food security remained generally low, raising fears of food shortages in the coming two months of September and October 2021.

Three out of four main crossline markets were fully operational. Market remained the main source of food in Blue Nile region. However, prices of food and non-food items (sugar, coffee, soap, salt and fuel as well as livestock) remained higher than normal. For example, Bala market, the main supplier of maize and sorghum flour from Ethiopia to Yabus, has been closed for one month due to ongoing fighting in Ethiopia hence, affecting food security in the area.

South Kordofan

While farmers in Um Durain were weeding their crops (particularly on far and mechanized farms), those in Heiban and Western Kaduguli replanted theirs after the dry period. A seed distribution in July assisted **5,400** households, including the enclaves of Rashad and Abbasiya.

Food security improved in Dallami county in August, as **1516** households received 50kg maize, 5kg beans, 500gm salt and 3 liters of oil each, through the help of one of the partners. However, levels of food insecurity for pockets of population in other parts of South Kordofan are severe, and expected to deteriorate even further in coming months.

Highlights

Food security remains a major challenge in the Two Areas

Insecurity in Western Jebel hindering access to crossline markets and far farms

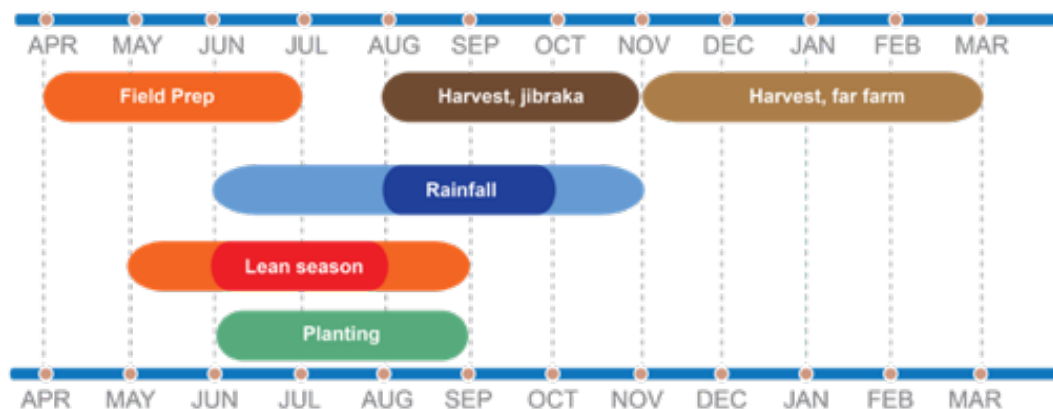
Heavy rains and flooding hindering humanitarian access in the Two Areas

Western Jebels

The average land prepared per household on near farms this season was low compared to last year, primarily due to insecurity caused by continued cattle raids in Dilling and Al Sunut counties and, the lack of capital for machinery. Please note that **550** (of which, **250** in Dilling and **300** in Lagawa) low-income households received seeds, fuel and spare parts for tractors and maintenance services. In addition, **300** households benefited from seed distribution. However, due to continued killings in the area, access to far farms has been hindered. This development is likely to affect the next harvest.

According to CU County Coordinator reports, households continued to report depleted food stocks, with around 60 per cent depending on wild leaves, hunting and casual labour as their main source of food. In Al Sunut county, for example, communities' coping mechanisms have been stretched to the limit (e.g. adults missing meals in so that at least their children can eat, having one meal a day or the daily portion reduced in size). Also see [FSMU July 2021 Quarterly Final.pdf](#)

Prices of items remained high, caused by high transportation costs as well as insecurity to crossline markets. Additionally, diminished labor opportunities resulting in low purchasing power, inflation in Sudan and new arrivals are limiting food access. Insecurity coupled with surging food prices will potentially worsen the food security situation later on in the year.



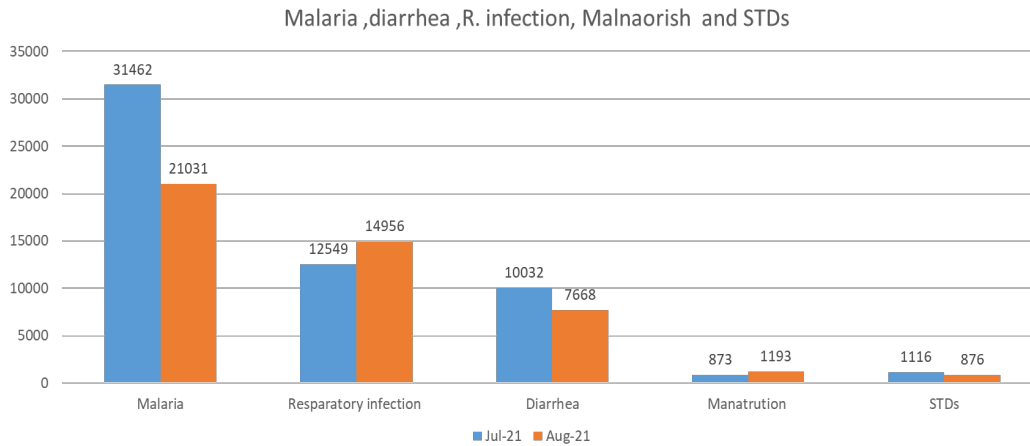
Seasonal calendar for South Kordofan and the Blue Nile

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

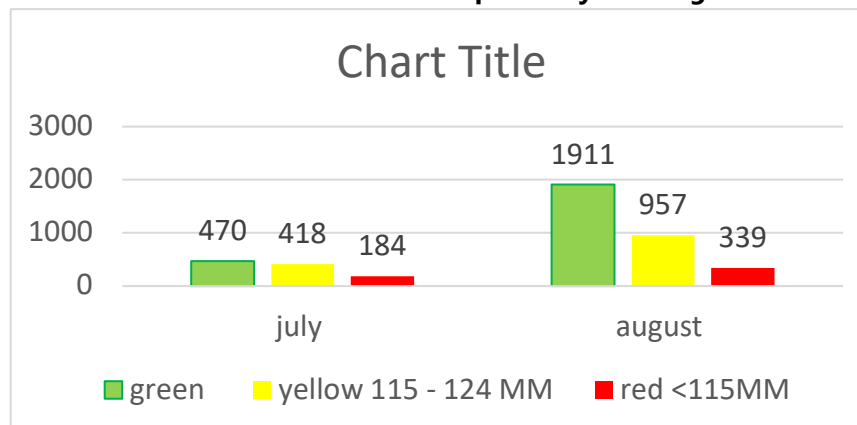
The health sector in the Two Areas continues to face challenges

South Kordofan and Western Jebel

Top five conditions recorded for July and August 2021



Children <5 screened with MUAC tap for July and August



COVID19 morbidity and mortality rates Central and Western Jebel from 2019 to 17/08/2021

S/N	County Name	Morbidity	Mortality (Death)	recovered	Currently Admitted	Remarks
1	Heiban	2	0	2	0	This month one case was reported by MMH
2	Umdorein	2	1	1	0	
3	Tobo	1	0	1	0	
4	Western Kadugli	0	0	0	0	
5	Toldi	0	0	0	0	
6	Dallami	1	1	0	0	
7	Dalling	0	0	0	0	
8	Lagawa	0	0	0	0	
9	Habilla	0	0	0	0	
10	New Tagely	0	0	0	0	
11	Rashad	0	0	0	0	
12	Abugebha	0	0	0	0	
13	Refee ashragi	0	0	0	0	
14	Snut	0	0	0	0	
	Total	6	2	4	0	

The Secretariat of Health continues to register shortages, among others, of essential drugs (e.g., anti-malarial products), vaccines, support for malaria control (vector control), programs, and support for insect prevention and pest control initiatives. The last consignment of childhood vaccines were received two years ago and the area is facing acute shortages. Cases of measles and neonatal tetanus were reported. The SoH conducted a measles vaccination campaign with the last remaining stock. Urgent action is needed to re-establish routine vaccinations for children and pregnant women to prevent new outbreaks. Additionally, cases of rabies have been registered moreover there are hardly any vaccines left in the two hospitals to respond to dog bites.

Blue Nile

Shortage of drugs remained the top challenge facing the entire region of Blue Nile. All PHCUs reported shortages of anti-malarial drugs. Community residents often walked distances of over two hours to get services. Moreover, an estimated 80 per cent of local communities cannot afford to buy medicines from markets. Chali el-Fil PHCU registered **2500** patients in August.

EDUCATION

Schools in the areas closed as children are helping their families in farming

Schools are still in recess, while coaching lessons for P8 and S4 candidates classes are ongoing. While partners continue to support with teacher incentives and feeding, more support is needed in this sector to support communities to keep the schools running.

ANIMAL HEALTH

Lack of essential drugs in the Two Areas affects livestock keeping

Blue Nile (Southern Kurmuk County)

Despite the vaccination of over **3,000** livestock by FAO South Sudan in July, the health of livestock in Blue Nile remains poor, according to local communities. The massive livestock movement and their concentration at water points have increased the risk of livestock disease transmission. A disease locally known as *abuzagalla* is affecting livestock and needs urgent attention before it affects more animals.

South Kordofan

In Heiban, Thobo and Um Durain counties, there were reports of anthrax, pasteurellosis, vesicular stomatitis affecting over **20,000** heads of cattle.

Western Jebel

Cattle raiding is threatening the livelihoods for pastoral communities in Western Jebel (Dilling and Al Sunut counties), creating fear and insecurity among the population. These incidents also impact grazing patterns of cattle herders, affecting access to pastures and water.

PROTECTION, ACCESS, AND SECURITY

Insecurity in Western Jebel affecting farming and market activities

South Kordofan

150 heads of cattle were stolen in Lado village in Tabilla Payam, Thobo County.

An assessment by local authorities and partners on the tribal clashes between Tira and Oturo in Heiban in June reported that 521 households were affected. One of the partners continued to provide food and NFIs to the affected households.

In Tabilli Payam, Thobo County, floods destroyed several farms and houses, displacing 79 households. The most urgent needs of these IDPs are food and NFIs, among others.

483 new arrivals from both government-controlled areas and South Sudan were registered in South Kordofan (55 in Troji, 78 in Tabanya and 350 in Angola).

Western Jebel

Ongoing tribal violence between Hamar and Misère Zuruk tribes in Mahfurah Government-controlled area triggered displacements into Al-Shifir payam, Dilling County.

Violence erupted in Abjunub payam (Al Sunut county) between the Abjunub community and the Arab pastoralists known as Bagara. This incident led to a loss of grazing land, forcing the relocation of most livestock to Tima payam for grazing and safety. In addition farming and market activities have been disrupted. Peacebuilding initiatives are ongoing to ensure peaceful co-existence, but more support is required in this sector.

On 31 August: A man was killed on his far farms in Kujiria payam, Dilling county.

On 29 August: Two children were killed by unexploded ordanances in Fragil village, Dilling County. As these UXOs pose a public health risk, there is an urgent need for clearance of UXOs and risk education, so that communities can safely coexist in an area affected by landmines.

On 09 August: A man was killed on his way to Karku payam between Wali and Kujuria payams.

Sixteen **(16)** South Sudanese households were registered in Shukul village, Kasha payam, Al Sunut County. These families came from SAF-controlled areas to SPLM/N territories in search of food, protection and work.

The SKBN CU reports security incidents according to the information received from a variety of sources. This information does not include a comprehensive verification of perpetrators or damages.

This monthly update on humanitarian issues in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is compiled by the SKBN Coordination Unit. With three main functions of information, coordination, and advocacy, the SKBNCU strives to put out regular and accurate information on the humanitarian situation of people affected by the conflict since 2011.

Please send your comments to advocacy@skbncu.org